Expected import of fertilizers

154 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the expected import of fertilizers of different categories during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): The following quantities of different fertilizers are likely to be imported during the financial year 1990-91:

(In lakh tonnes)

DAP	—	22 00
MOP	—	19 65
SOP	—	0 59
NPK	—	1 54

It is not possible to indicate the expected imports during 1991-92 as the likely demand of fertilizers and the indigenous availability etc have not been estimated.

Covering of more areas by Railway lines

155. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for covering more areas by Railway lines; if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when Deoli in the District Tonk of Rajasthan would be connected by the Railways; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to include Tehsil Jahajpur in District Bhilwara to be connected to the Railways by the next plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir The expansion of railway network to meet the traffic requirements is an on-going process and new lines are taken up every year depending on the availability of resources

The details of new railway lines under construction and those being taken up have been given in the Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme of the Railways, Part II under each Railway. These documents have been furnished to the Members of Parliament along with other Budget documents

(b) At present, there is no proposal for connecting Deoli in the District Tonk to the railway network

(c) A survey has been completed for linking Bundi with Deogarh via Jahajpur in 1987 This project has not been found to be remunerative and hence not taken up

Machine stitching of food bags

156 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) by when all the food would be supplied in machine stitched bags to avoid shortage and adulteration; and

(b) the details of action proposed to be taken for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Although the machine-stitching of bags containing foodgrains procured at mandies/purchase centres, figures high on the priority of the Government for reducing storage and transit losses and adulteration, in view of vast magnitude of price support operations involving about 8000 purchase centres run by Food Corporation of India and State procuring agencies for procurement of wheat and 18768 rice mills (as on 1-1-1986) from whom the levy-rice is collected, it has not been practicable to fix any definite dead-line to achieve 100 per cent machine-stitching of foodgrains bags Due to legal and other practical difficulties, it is not possible to make machine-stitching of levy-rice bags compulsory and, therefore, machine-stitching of levy-rice bags is voluntary However attempts are being made to extend machine-stitching and incentives are being given to popularise this The current ceiling